Assistance for Special Educators, Law Enforcement, and Child Protective Services in Recognizing and Managing

## ABUSE AND NEGLECT OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

**The Mandated Reporter Assistance Series** 

## Table of Contents

1.	Child Abuse/Neglect	4.	Questionable Situations
	and Disabilities  The Relationship between Disabilities and Maltreatment		The Fine Line Between Abuse
			and Discipline
			Distinguishing Abuse from Accident 32
	Children with Disabilities		Characteristic of the Disability
	At Risk Children with Disabilities 5		or Abuse?
	Perpetrators 6		Latchkey Children
	Consequences of Abuse and Neglect 7		Sexual Activity Between Children 37
	Consequences of Abase and Neglect		Failure to Obtain Medical Care 38
2.	Disabilities and the Family		Situations That Are Not Considered Abuse/Neglect and Are
	Family Stress and Risk 10		Not Reportable
	Emotional Response to the Disability11		
	Impact of a Child's Disability on Family Life	5.	Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect
			Why Report?
	Family Resiliency and Healthy		Who Must Report? 42
	Adjustment		Liability of Reporter
	Obstacles to Accessing Community Resources		Penalty for Failure to Report 43
			When to Report?
			How to Report? 44
3.	Recognizing Child Abuse and Neglect		Informing the Parents 45
			What if You're Not Sure? 46
	Legal Definitions 20		What if the Abuse Occurred in
	Operational Definitions 21		the Past?
	Indicators of Abuse/Neglect 23		What if a Report is Not Accepted by Child Protective Services? 47
	Indicators Observed in the Classroom 28		Feedback from Child Protective
			Services

6.	Issues and Concerns About Reporting	9.	Disabilities, Maltreatment, and Interdisciplinary Collaboration
	Personal Biases 50		Interdisciplinary Teamwork 64
	Confidentiality 51		Pre-interview Planning 65
7.	Special Educator Response to the Child Victim		Release of Records to Child Protective Services
			Interviewing Children in School 66
	How to Respond to the Child Who Reports Abuse/Neglect		Interview Principles and Use of Language
	Techniques for Interacting with the Abused/Neglected Child 55		Interviewing Children with Language/ Communication Challenges 70
			Use of Interpreters
8.	Child Protective Services Investigation and Response		Facilitated Communication 74
			Competency
	What Happens After You Make A Report?		
	Right To Appeal Investigation Findings	10.	Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
	Services Provided to the Family 59		Prevention Strategies 78
	Removal From the Home and Placement		Prevention Curriculum Components 79
	Protective Custody 60	11.	. Appendix
	Photographs and X-Rays 60		Glossary of Disabilities 82
	Civil Court Action and Testimony by School Employees 61 Criminal Prosecution		Continuum of Disabilities 98
			Developmental Language Skills 100
			Prevention Curricula for Children with Disabilities
			References
			List of Local Social Services  Departments
			Resources 109

For additional copies of:

## Assistance For SPECIAL EDUCATORS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

In Recognizing and Managing Abuse and Neglect of Children with Disabilities

Cut out or Copy this form and mail to:

Virginia Department of Social Services Child Protective Services Unit 7 N. Eighth Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 (800) 552-3431

Please print or type.						
Name						
Telephone Number ( )						
Address						
(Street)						
(P.O. Box)						
City State	Zip					
PLEASE MAKE CHECK/MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: TREASURER, STATE OF VIRGINIA						

Booklets are \$1.65 per copy

Copies x \$1.65 PER COPY = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Price may be subject to change